

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1 and 3. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-3, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 18-21 will be pending upon entry of the present amendment. Claims 1-16 are being amended. Claim 17 is being canceled. Claims 18-21 are new.

Figures 1 and 3 have been amended to include labels for the various blocks and to change the reference number for the port controller in Figure 3 from “1” to “25” in order to distinguish the port controller 25 from the line card 1 of Figure 1. No changes are being made to Figure 2, but replacement sheets for all of Figures 1-3 are presented herewith for approval for completeness.

Several paragraphs of the specification are being amended to refer to the port controller 25 rather than a port controller 1 for the same reason as discussed above.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowance of claims 1-15. Claims 1-15 are being amended to place them in more standard US format. Claims 1-15 are believed to still be in condition for allowance.

Claims 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, and were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 16 is being amended into a standard method format. Claim 17 is being canceled, but new independent claim 20, in a standard method format, is being submitted. New claims 18-19 depend on claim 16 and new claim 21 depends on claim 20. Applicants submit that the Examiner will appreciate the allowability of claims 16 and 18-21, in view of the allowance of claims 1-15.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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